

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace the listing of claims as pending in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A high purity Ru powder wherein the content of the respective alkali metal elements such as Na and K is 10 wtpm or less, and the content of Al is in the range of 1 to 50 wtpm.

Claims 2-7 (canceled).